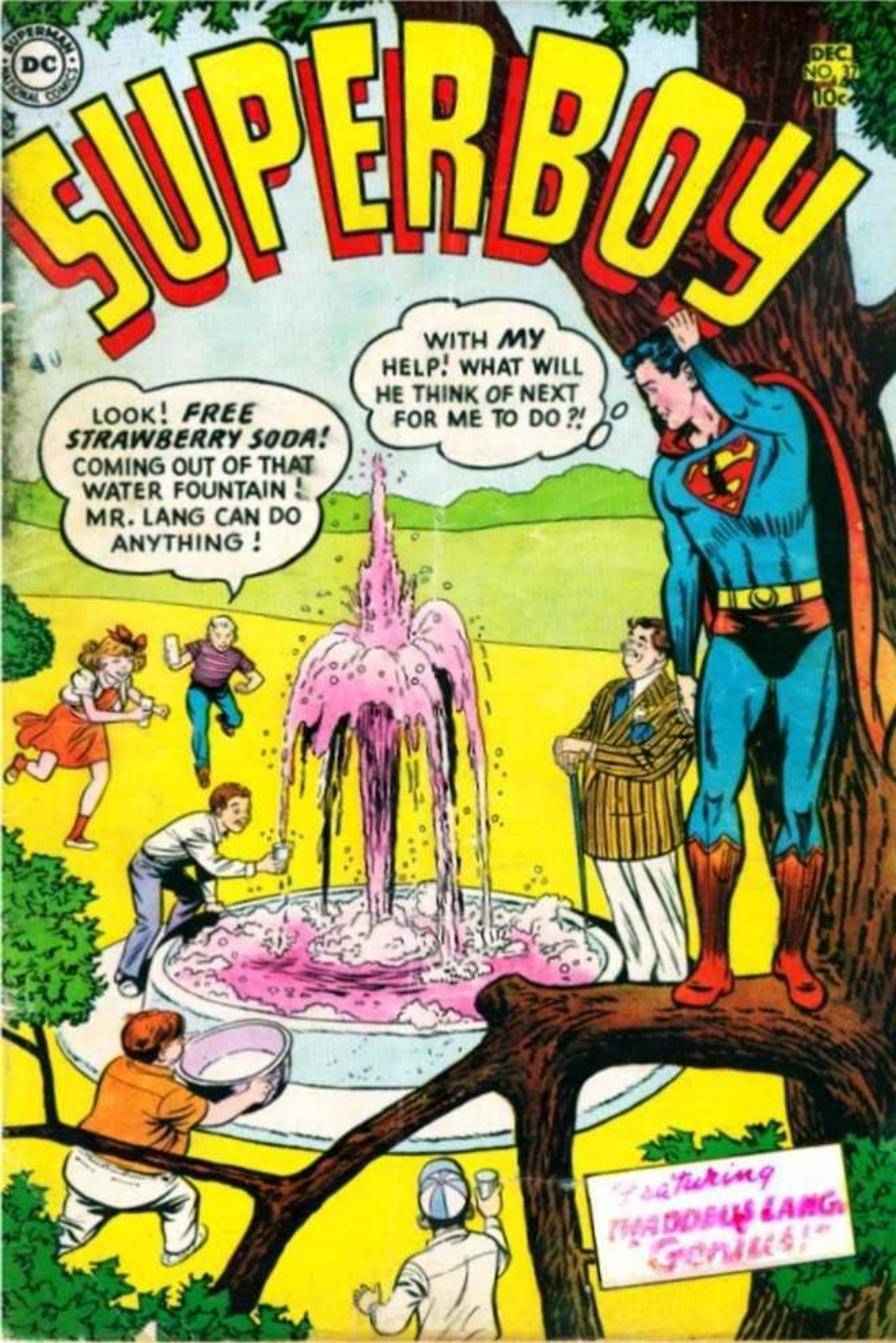
SUPERBOY
DC
SUPERMAN NATIONAL COMICS
DEC. NO. 37 10c
WITH MY HELP! WHAT WILL HE THINK OF NEXT FOR ME TO DO?!
LOOK! FREE STRAWBERRY SODA! COMING OUT OF THAT WATER FOUNTAIN! MR. LANG CAN DO ANYTHING!
Featuring THADDEUS LANG Comics!

SUPERBOY
The ADVENTURES of SUPERMAN
WHEN HE WAS A BOY
TH-THANKS, SUPERBOY! EVEN IF IT MEANT SUICIDE, I JUST HAD TO FINISH MY JOB!
AND THE JOB NEARLY FINISHED YOU!
WHOSE JOBS ARE MOST DANGEROUS, WOULD YOU SAY? MINERS? TEST PILOTS OF SUPER-SONIC JETS? DEEP-SEA DIVERS? YES, THEY ARE MANY AND VARIED, BUT SUPERBOY MEETS THREE COURAGEOUS DAREDEVILS, WHO CONSTANTLY RISK DEATH THROUGH THEIR DANGEROUS JOBS. AND IT TAKES ALL BRAIN AND BRAWN TO SOLVE A GRIM MYSTERY THAT INVOLVES...
The THREE who DEFIED DEATH!
DANGER MAN AT WORK DYNAMITING CRATER

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ALL BANKS HAVE ARMED GUARDS -- BUT NONE LIKE THIS...
JOHNNY JUST MADE A DEPOSIT OF 18¢! WATCH FOR BANDITS, CHIMPY!
IK IK IK!
PIGGY BANK I'M A HOG FOR SAVINGS!
GEE, I'M GONNA SAVE ALL MY PENNIES AND BRING 'EM HERE OFTEN!
THIS BRANCH BANK IS A WONDERFUL IDEA, TEACHING OUR CHILDREN TO BE THRIFTY!
XMAS CLUB TAKE THE FOXY EXPRESS
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT? IT IS THE GRAND OPENING OF SMALLVILLE'S UNIQUE SAVINGS BRANCH, THE ZOO BANK, ATTRACTING YOUNGSTERS LIKE LANA LANG!
ISN'T IT ALL CUTE, SUPERBOY?
ALSO PRACTICAL, LANA! I'M ALL FOR IT BECAUSE IT TEACHES YOUNG PEOPLE TO SAVE FOR A RAINY DAY!
PET THE PANDA FOR ANY DEPOSIT OVER $1.00
AS PRESIDENT OF THE BANK, SUPERBOY, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR ENDORSING OUR PLAN! AND BEING HERE ON OUR OPENING DAY!
WE BROUGHT THAT $25,000 FROM OUR MAIN BRANCH. DESPITE THE SIGN, WE FEEL SAFER WITH YOU GUARDING THE MONEY, THAN THE LION! WE'LL LOCK THE MONEY IN OUR MAIN VAULT TONIGHT, OF COURSE!
I'LL BE HERE ALL DAY UNLESS SOMETHING IMPORTANT TAKES ME AWAY, SIR!
YOUNG FOLKS LET YOUR PENNIES PILE UP INTO A LION'S SHARE!
BANDITS BEWARE THE LION
2

MEANWHILE, ABOVE SMALLVILLE, THE ZOO BANK DISPLAYS AN UNUSUAL ADVERTISING STUNT...
ZOO BANK
WATCH THE DARING LIVING LETTERS!
:GASP!: LOOK AT HIM TWIST HIS BODY TO FORM THE LETTER "Z"! HE'S GOING TO SPELL OUT "ZOO BANK!"
BUT, SUDDENLY, WHILE FORMING THE NEXT LETTER, "O"...
I SLIPPED... EEE-A-A-A-.
GOOD HEAVENS... HE'LL BE KILLED--!
BUT HEARING THE CRY MILES AWAY, THE BOY OF STEEL SPEEDS TO THE SPOT, AND...
CAUGHT YOU JUST IN TIME! THAT WAS A RISKY STUNT, BUT YOU DAREDEVILS HAVE IRON NERVES! WANT TO GO RIGHT BACK ON THE JOB?
NO... NO! D-DON'T TAKE ME BACK UP TH-THERE!
I--I'VE LOST MY NERVE COMPLETELY! YOU SEE, I'M NOT A TRAINED ACROBAT AT ALL! I'M JOHN TRENT, JUST AN ORDINARY STORE CLERK!
GOOD GRIEF! THEN WHY ARE YOU RISKING YOUR LIFE IN A DANGEROUS STUNT LIKE THAT?
I DID IT FOR THE MONEY, A LOT OF MONEY--$500 FOR ONLY ONE HOUR'S WORK! I--I NEED THE MONEY BADLY FOR AN OPERATION FOR MY M-MOTHER! THIS WAS THE QUICKEST WAY TO GET IT, BY ANSWERING HARRY HIGDON'S AD IN THE NEWSPAPER--!
WHO'S HARRY HIGDON--?
I'LL ANSWER THAT IN PERSON, SUPERBOY! I'M AN EMPLOYMENT AGENT, SPECIALIZING IN FINDING MEN WILLING TO TAKE DANGEROUS JOBS! WHEN THE ZOO BANK ASKED FOR AN AERIAL STUNT MAN, I HIRED TRENT--
IT'S HARDLY MY FAULT IF HE FAILED! AND HE WON'T BE PAID UNLESS HE FINISHES!
I--I CAN'T! BUT I NEED THE MONEY SO DESPERATELY.. :SOB:!
9

THE ZOO BANK WON'T PAY ME, SO HOW CAN I PAY YOU? I'LL HAVE TO HIRE ANOTHER MAN!
WAIT! HE RISKED HIS OWN LIFE TO HELP HIS MOTHER, AND DESERVES A BREAK! HE'S TOO UPSET TO CONTINUE!
WOULD YOU OBJECT IF I TAKE HIS PLACE, HIGDON?
NOT AT ALL, SUPERBOY! JUST SO THE JOB IS DONE!
THUS, THE BOY OF STEEL BRINGS THRILLS TO SCORES OF SPECTATORS...
ZOO BANK
WATCH THE DARING LIVING LETTERS!
ZOO BANK
I CAN FORM ALL THE LETTERS AT SUPER SPEED! BEFORE THE FIRST LETTER FADES, I'M ALREADY FORMING THE LAST ONE!
AFTER AN HOUR OF CONTINUOUS PERFORMANCE...
I'LL GLADLY PAY TRENT, NOW THAT THE ZOO BANK WILL PAY ME FOR ARRANGING THE STUNT!
THE RISK IS ALL PART OF THE DANGEROUS JOBS THAT HIGDON HIRES MEN FOR! WELL, TRENT'S TROUBLES ARE OVER NOW!
THINK SO, SUPERBOY?
NOW I ONLY HOPE MY TWO BROTHERS FINISH THEIR JOBS! NEEDING $1500 ALTOGETHER FOR THE COSTLY OPERATION, WE THREE BROTHERS MADE A PACT TO TAKE THREE DANGEROUS JOBS FROM HIGDON, AT $500 EACH!

WOW! THEY MAY NEED HELP, TOO! QUICK... WHERE ARE YOUR BROTHERS?
HENRY'S 50 MILES WEST, WHERE HE WILL PARACHUTE FROM A PLANE TO THE TOP OF SKYSCRAPER ROCK!
DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO ASK WHY? I'LL FIND OUT FOR MYSELF!
MEANWHILE, AT SKYSCRAPER ROCK...
I MISSED THE TOP WHEN A GUST OF WIND BLEW ME ASIDE! I'LL LAND IN THOSE DEADLY RAPIDS BELOW!
STILL FAR OFF, SUPERBOY'S TELESCOPIC VISION FOCUSES ON THE IMPENDING TRAGEDY...
GOT TO SAVE HENRY TRENT FROM HERE WITH SUPER BREATH REACHING HIS PARACHUTE AT SUPER-SONIC SPEED!
WOOOSH
SAVED BY A MIRACULOUS BURST OF WIND! BUT I DROPPED MY PAINT BUCKET AND BRUSH! I'LL LAND IN THAT FIELD!
WHEN SUPERBOY QUESTIONS THE SECOND OF THE BRAVE TRENT BROTHERS...
MY JOB WAS TO PAINT A BIG WHITE ARROW ON SKYSCRAPER ROCK, POINTING NORTH, AS A GUIDE BEACON FOR A NEW AIRLINE ROUTE!
I HEARD OF THE NEW AIR ROUTE PLANNED THIS WAY! I'LL FINISH YOUR JOB, HENRY, AS I DID JOHN'S, FOR YOUR MOTHER'S SAKE!

HE LOST HIS PAINT, SO I'LL MAKE MY OWN! FIRST, TO HOLLOW THIS ROCK INTO A PAINT POT!
I FOUND THIS CHALKY LIMESTONE FOR THE WHITENING INGREDIENT! NOW SUPER-PRESSURE WILL SQUEEZE OIL FROM THESE SEEDS I GATHERED! MOST PAINTS USE VEGETABLE OILS, LIKE LINSEED OIL!
FINALLY, AT THE TOP OF SKYSCRAPER ROCK...
A QUICK TRIP TO A FARMER'S BARNYARD FURNISHED MY "BRUSH" OF HORSE HAIRS! I'LL PAINT THE BEACON POINTING NORTH, TO GUIDE PLANES ALONG THE NEW ROUTE!
DONE AT LAST... BUT THE ARROW IS POINTING STRAIGHT TOWARD--GOOD HEAVENS! SOMETHING'S ALL WRONG HERE! I'LL CHECK ON THE THIRD BROTHER, AND SEE WHAT THIS ADDS UP TO!
WHAT HAS SUPERBOY SEEN THAT MAKES HIM SUSPICIOUS?
CHARLES IS A HUNDRED MILES WEST, DRIVING A DYNAMITE TRUCK UP TO HIDDEN CRATER!
WEST AGAIN, EH? HMM.. NOW I SUSPECT A TRICK MORE AND MORE! BUT I STILL HAVE TO GO ON AND SEE IF CHARLES TRENT IS SAFE. NO TIME TO CHECK UP BACK IN SMALLVILLE RIGHT NOW!

MEANWHILE, JOUNCING ALONG THE ROCKY AND ROUGH ROAD WINDING UP TO HIDDEN CRATER...
WILL I MAKE IT...? ONE BAD SHAKE CAN SET OFF THIS DYNAMITE AND BLOW ME SKY HIGH!
GOOD GRAVY! THAT BIG ROCK AHEAD! THE JOLT WILL MAKE THE EXPLOSIVES GO OFF FOR SURE... AND MY BRAKES WON'T STOP ME IN TIME, ON THIS DOWNGRADE!
SQUEEERR
FLASHING IN, SUPERBOY OBSERVES THE DILEMMA AND...
IF I TRY TO HALT THE TRUCK THE SHOCK OF A SUDDEN STOP MIGHT EXPLODE THE DYNAMITE!
I'LL PULL OUT THE ROCK... BUT WITH MOST OF IT BURIED BELOW THAT LEAVES A HOLE DEEP ENOUGH TO JAR THE TRUCK!
INGENIOUSLY, THE BOY OF STEEL UTILIZES HIS HARD BODY!
GOSH! SUPERBOY LET MY FRONT PASS OVER SMOOTHLY, WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST JAR! WHEW!
YOU TRENT BOYS CERTAINLY TOOK ON THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS JOBS, TO EARN MONEY TO SAVE YOUR DYING MOTHER! WHAT WAS THE DYNAMITE FOR?
MY JOB WAS TO BLAST A ROADWAY ACROSS THE CRATER!
7

HIGDON SAID A MINING COMPANY DISCOVERED URANIUM ORE WITHIN THE CRATER! SO THEY WANT A ROAD BUILT INTO THE CRATER TO BRING OUT THE ORE!
LET ME CHECK! I'LL DROP YOU OFF OUTSIDE!
I KNEW IT! MY X-RAY VISION REVEALS NOT A SPECK OF URANIUM, OTHERWISE IT WOULD BE PARTLY BLOCKED OFF BY LEAD, SINCE ALL URANIUM ORES SLOWLY FISSION DOWN TO PLAIN LEAD! ANOTHER TRICK!
BUT I'LL FINISH HIS JOB, BY MAKING A CRACK IN THE CRATER'S RIM! IF I HURRY NOW, I CAN STILL FOIL HIS PLOT!
WHOSE PLOT, SUPERBOY?
BUT YOU DIDN'T MAKE A ROADWAY, SUPERBOY, ONLY A NARROW SPLIT! MY JOB ISN'T DONE--
NEVER MIND! WE HAVEN'T TIME TO WASTE NOW. WE MUST PICK UP YOUR BROTHER HENRY AND RUSH BACK TO SMALLVILLE...WHERE THE ZOO BANK IS BEING ROBBED BY... HARRY HIGDON!
AND AT THE BANK, TRUE TO SUPERBOY'S SUSPICION...
THESE FIREBRANDS WILL PANIC THE ANIMALS AND CREATE AN UPROAR, WHILE WE GRAB THE LOOT IN THE CONFUSION!
OPEN THE CAGE AND SCARE THE LION AWAY! WHAT A CINCH, SNATCHING THAT 25 GRAND NOW!
JUST THE WAY WE PLANNED IT, WITH SUPERBOY FAR AWAY HELPING THREE NEEDY BROTHERS, AFTER HEARING THEIR TRUE SOB STORY! BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW HE'S HELPING US MORE!
$5,000
8

BUT SUDDENLY...
WELL! SEEMS THERE ARE RATS IN THE ZOO BANK, TOO!
INTO THE CAGE WITH YOU BEASTS!
SUPERBOY... HE CAME BACK TOO SOON!
YOU'RE SAFE WITH THE MONEY HERE, WHILE I ROUND UP THE ANIMALS!
THEN, BEFORE THE ANIMALS CAN SCATTER...
THEY WERE JUST SCARED BY THE FIREBRANDS, WHICH I SNUFFED OUT! THEY'LL RETURN QUIETLY NOW!
ZOO BANK
LATER...
HARRY HIGDON, ALIAS "HOODWINK" HARRISON, IN DISGUISE!
HE POSED AS AN EMPLOYMENT-AGENT ONLY TO HIRE ANY THREE MEN DESPERATELY IN NEED OF QUICK MONEY, LIKE THE TRENT BROTHERS! HE HOPED THAT BY RISKING THEIR LIVES, I WOULD COME TO THEIR HELP!
YOU-- YOU MEAN, THOSE JOBS WERE FAKES?
NO! THE FIRST ONE WAS REAL--THE ZOO BANK REALLY WANTED THAT ADVERTISING STUNT! THAT MADE THE NEXT TWO JOBS SEEM LEGITIMATE, TOO, EACH ONE DRAWING ME FURTHER FROM SMALLVILLE!
"MY FIRST CLUE TO THESE PHONEY JOBS WAS NOTING THAT THE ARROW BEACON POINTED STRAIGHT TOWARD CERTAIN DISASTER! 'HOODWINK' HARRISON PICKED NORTH PURELY AT RANDOM!"
GOOD HEAVENS! THE ARROW POINTS STRAIGHT TOWARD THAT MOUNTAIN PEAK, HIDDEN BY FOG! NO AIRLINE COMPANY WOULD WANT THIS!

THEN IT STRUCK ME. THIS WAS 50 MILES WEST OF SMALLVILLE, AND THE NEXT JOB 100 MILES WEST AS IF "LURING" ME FURTHER AWAY! FINALLY, THE LACK OF URANIUM IN THE CRATER CLINCHED IT, PROVING IT WAS TRICKERY BY HARRISON, NOT KNOWING I'D CATCH ON AND HURRY BACK BEFORE THEY COULD FINISH THEIR ROBBERY!
BUT IF THOSE TWO JOBS WERE FAKES, WE DON'T GET THE REMAINING $1,000 WE NEED!
I THINK YOU WILL! THE REASON I FINISHED THE JOBS WAS TO KEEP YOU FROM BEING SWINDLED! THE AIRLINE COMPANY WILL PAY YOU AFTER ALL, FOR THE SECOND JOB! AND GRATEFUL FARMERS FOR THE THIRD!

SUPERBOY IS NOT WRONG, FOR WHEN PASSENGER PLANES FOLLOW THE NEW ROUTE...
WARNING
MOUNTAIN PEAK
LOOK! SUPERBOY CONVERTED THAT INTO A WARNING FOR US TO AVOID THAT PEAK! HE DESERVED THE MONEY!

AND IN THE VALLEY BELOW THE CRATER...
WE NOW HAVE CONTINUOUS WATER TO IRRIGATE OUR DRY LAND! OUR DONATION TO SUPERBOY IN GRATITUDE SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE THAN $500!
10

DAYS LATER, IT IS NOT THE HEADLINE BUT A SMALL ITEM IN THE NEWSPAPER THAT FILLS CLARK KENT WITH DEEP SATISFACTION...
BUT THE CREDIT REALLY GOES TO HER THREE LOYAL SONS, WHO BRAVELY RISKED THEIR LIVES FOR HER!
SMALL
HOODWINK HARRISON CONVICTED
RECUPERATING FR
AN OPERATIO
MRS. TRENT
OWES HER
LIFE TO
SUPERBO
WHO
THE END

BEBE
LOOK AT THE MESS YOU MADE IN YOUR ROOM! CLEAN IT UP! AND ANOTHER THING--
LATER..
I'LL GO TO THE LIBRARY!
THIS ONE LOOKS GOOD. I'LL TAKE IT!
CHILD TRAINING?
MY, MY, BEBE, DID YOUR MOTHER ASK YOU TO BRING THIS BOOK HOME?
OH NO! I'M GOING TO READ IT. I WANT TO SEE IF I'M BEING BROUGHT UP PROPERLY!
END

SUPERBOY

The ADVENTURES of SUPERMAN WHEN HE WAS A BOY

DON'T WORRY, BOSS! HE'S SAFE WITH US! HE CAN'T EVEN BUDGE A FINGER!
OH, NO?
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A SAVAGE LION FOR A PET -- OR A RAGING TORNADO IN YOUR LIVING ROOM? NOT VERY MUCH, WOULD YOU? YET, IT WOULD BE WORSE IF YOU TRIED TO KEEP THE BOY OF STEEL PRISONER! OF COURSE, SINCE HE WAS DISGUISED AS CLARK, THEY DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS SUPERBOY, BUT THEY HAD THEIR HANDS FULL -- AS DID SUPERBOY HIMSELF WHEN HE BECAME...
"CLARK KENT, PRISONER!"

ONE DAY AS CLARK KENT, SECRETLY SUPERBOY, JOINS HIS CLASSMATES ON A SEARCH FOR MINERAL SPECIMENS AT A CAVERNOUS RANGE OF HILLS NEAR SMALLVILLE AIRPORT...
LOOK AT THIS ROCK! I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE LIKE IT BEFORE!
CAREFUL, EVERYONE! THESE CAVES ARE LINED WITH OLD HIVES -- THERE MUST STILL BE LOTS OF BEES AROUND!

AS THE OTHERS ARE ABSORBED IN THEIR SEARCH, CLARK'S KEEN HEARING SUDDENLY PICKS UP A STRANGE, DISTANT SOUND...
THAT NOISE?
WHAT? I DON'T HEAR ANYTHING!
ATURALLY NOT, LANA -- HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN HEAR WHAT GOES ON 20 MILES AWAY?
I'M SURE I DID HEAR -- A -- A -- BEE -- DRONING AWAY, I'M GOING OVER THERE -- TO THOSE OTHER CAVES TO LOOK!
ALMOST GAVE MYSELF AWAY! AH, MY TELESCOPIC VISION REVEALS A FREAK TWISTER STORM -- AND I HAVE JUST A FEW MINUTES TO STOP IT BEFORE IT HITS A POPULATED AREA!

YOU'LL HAVE TO LOOK ALONE, CLARK! MISS EMMONS SAID THESE CAVES HAD THE BEST SPECIMENS!
FINE! I WANT TO BE ALONE -- TO SWITCH, UNOBSERVED TO SUPERBOY!
YET, I DON'T WANT THEM TO NOTICE I'M NOT IN THE OTHER CAVES FOR FEAR THEY'LL THINK I'M LOST AND START LOOKING FOR ME! IF THERE WERE ONLY SOMETHING OUT OF WHICH I COULD MAKE A DUMMY OF MYSELF... HMM...

OF COURSE! THESE OLD BEE HIVES--I CAN MOLD THE BEES-WAX INTO ANY SHAPE I WANT...
...AND THE SHAPE I WANT IS THAT OF CLARK KENT--SO THAT ANYONE LOOKING FROM THE OTHER RANGE OF HILLS CAN SEE HIM IN THE ENTRANCE OF THIS CAVERN!
THEN, TIMID CLARK TRANSFORMS HIMSELF INTO THE BOY OF STEEL, AND...
NOT BAD FOR SOME-THING DONE IN SECONDS. NOW TO TACKLE THAT TWISTER!
AND WITH EYE-BLURRING SPEED, HE ZOOMS SKYWARD...
RRIP
THIS WINDMILL WAS ABANDONED YEARS AGO -- NO HARM IF I TAKE THESE BLADES ALONG!
NOW TO DIVE INTO THE MIDDLE OF THE TWISTER...
ROAR
WHRRRRRRRR
...AND BY WHIRLING ABOUT IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION, I CAN UNWIND THE TWISTER AND LEAVE IT AS A MERE BREEZE!
FORTUNATELY, I GOT HERE JUST IN TIME! THE ONLY DAMAGE IT DID WAS TO THIS BARN, AND IT WON'T TAKE LONG TO REPAIR THAT!
3

A LITTLE LATER, AT THE CAVE WHERE SUPERBOY HAS LEFT THE IMAGE OF CLARK...
HMM... THE OTHERS HAVE LEFT ALREADY. BETTER TAKE THESE CLOTHES AND SWITCH BACK TO CLARK! I WANT TO CATCH THEM BEFORE THEY MISS ME!
BUT FIRST I'LL MELT THIS DUMMY WITH THE HEAT OF MY X-RAY VISION!

ONLY MOMENTS ARE NEEDED FOR SUPERBOY TO FIND HIS FELLOW STUDENTS AND SWITCH TO THE BREATHLESS CLARK IN HURRIED PURSUIT...
HEY--WAIT UP FOR ME!
CLARK! OH, I'M DREADFULLY SORRY WE WENT OFF AHEAD OF YOU-- BUT WE GOT SO INTERESTED IN THE SPECIMENS WE COLLECTED WE FORGOT YOU WEREN'T WITH US!
LATER, AS CLARK GOES HOME, CONGRATULATING HIMSELF THAT ONCE AGAIN HIS SECRET IDENTITY HAS SERVED HIM SO WELL, HE IS UNAWARE THAT HE IS FOLLOWED BY THREE MENACING FIGURES...
GANDY! THE KID! THERE HE IS! LET'S GRAB HIM!
(WHISPER) SHHH! WE GOTTA BE CAREFUL! THAT KID'S WORTH A MILLION DOLLARS TO US! HOP IN THE CAR, PETE!

A BARELY AUDIBLE WHISPER-- A HALF BLOCK AWAY-- BUT TO CLARK'S UNIQUE HEARING IT MIGHT AS WELL HAVE BEEN BLASTED OVER A THOUSAND LOUDSPEAKERS!
I? WORTH A MILLION TO THEM? BUT WHY? I-- I NEVER SAW THEM BEFORE! IT WOULD BE WORTH A MILLION IF THEY SUSPECTED MY IDENTITY--BUT THAT CAN'T BE IT OR THEY WOULDN'T GRAB ME! WHAT MAKES ME IMPORTANT TO THEM?
AN INTERESTING QUESTION INDEED, AND CLARK WALKS HOMEWARD RAPIDLY, PONDERING THE ANSWER...
MAYBE IT'S A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY--OR-- MAYBE I AM WORTH A MILLION TO THEM! THE ONLY WAY TO FIND OUT IS TO LET THEIR PLAN WORK!

MOMENTS LATER...
GOT HIM, BOSS!
OKAY--DON'T LET HIM SQUAWK! WE'LL GET HIM TO THE CAR AND GET AWAY QUICK!
WHISKED THROUGH TOWN, CLARK SOON FINDS HIMSELF IN A HOUSE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF SMALLVILLE...
WHAT--WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME?
THAT'S OUR BUSINESS! WATCH HIM, YOU TWO-- AND REMEMBER HE'S WORTH HIS WEIGHT IN GOLD! I'M GONNA TEND TO A FEW DETAILS AND WE'LL MEET-- YOU KNOW THE PLAN!
HE'S THE KID ALL RIGHT! LUCKY WE GOT HIM!
HMMM... SO IT ISN'T A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY! WELL--MAYBE I'LL FIND OUT WHAT IT IS BY WATCHING THEIR BOSS WITH MY X-RAY VISION!
AND AS HE TRACKS GANDY TO HIS DESTINATION...
HMM... ALL HE'S DOING IS CHECKING PLANE SCHEDULES! I JUST DON'T GET IT! WHAT IS THIS MILLION DOLLAR PUZZLE-- AND WHERE DO I FIT IN?
SMALLVILLE AIRPORT SCHEDULE of PLANES
HEY--WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US THAT WAS THERE? TAKE A LOOK, MIKE! WHAT A GAG!
WHAT'S OUT THERE? I'VE BEEN CONCENTRATING ON GANDY WHO WAS MILES AWAY, I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING HERE!
SMOKE ACME CIGARS
A TINY PUNCTURE IN THAT BALLOON CAUSING AIR TO SEEP OUT SLOWLY. IT'LL FALL GRADUALLY, THEN CRASH UNLESS I USE MY SUPER-POWERS TO STOP IT! HMM... CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE THEM SUSPECT I'M SUPERBOY... WHAT CAN I DO?

THIS WALL... RIGHT HERE... IS WARM! MUST BE A WATER PIPE--AND, FROM, THE FEEL OF IT, THE WATER'S REALLY HOT! THAT SHOULD HELP ME!
HOT WATER CAN'T BURN ME--AND THOSE MEN ARE FAR ENOUGH AWAY NOT TO BE HARMED BY IT, SO IT'S PERFECTLY SAFE TO PUNCH THROUGH THE WALL...
...AND RELEASE A JET OF HOT WATER AND CLOUDS OF STEAM! THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE ME CLEARLY THROUGH THE STEAM, AND IN THE EXCITEMENT, I CAN HAVE A FEW MOMENTS OF FREEDOM!
HEY--MIKE--WATCH OUT! HOT WATER PIPE BUSTED RIGHT THROUGH THE WALL!
THEY WON'T NOTICE THAT THIS STRIP OF METAL IS MISSING FROM THE COT, AND I CAN SHARPEN IT INTO A JAVELIN!
RRRK
THE KID! GRAB HIM BEFORE HE GETS AWAY!
CAN'T SEE A THING--AND I CAN'T GO AFTER HIM ON ACCOUNT OF THAT HOT WATER! YOU GO DOWN THE CELLAR, TURN IT OFF! I'LL GO OUTSIDE TO SEE HE DOESN'T SCRAM THROUGH A WINDOW!
I GAUGED ITS FALL AND KNEW IT WOULD BE NEAR THAT WOODEN HOUSE! HAVE TO AIM ACCURATELY!

THERE! THEY'LL BE SAFE ENOUGH TILL A RESCUE CREW ARRIVES AND NOW I CAN MAKE A HALF-HEARTED ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE-- AS ANY OTHER KID WHO ISN'T SUPERBOY WOULD DO IN MY PLACE!
THONNK!
GOT YA! YOU CAN'T FOOL ME-- ESPECIALLY WHEN ALL THAT DOUGH IS AT STAKE!
OKAY, MIKE! I GOT THE WATER TURNED OFF!
MOMENTS LATER, INSIDE...
SURE WAS A CRAZY ACCIDENT! AND IT HAD TO HAPPEN TO US!
OKAY--SO IT HAPPENED-- BUT FROM NOW ON NOTHIN' ELSE WILL HAPPEN! WE'LL SEE TO THAT!
I WONDER..?
IN THE EXCITEMENT, I LOST ALL TRACK OF GANDY! BETTER SEARCH THE TOWN WITH MY TELESCOPIC VISION; AND SEE IF I CAN FIND HIM! I CAN'T STAY HERE FOREVER! I MUST FIND OUT WHAT THEY WANT OF ME--SOON!
HALLVILLE SCHEDULE
GOOD GRIEF! A ROBBERY--AND ANOTHER JOB FOR SUPERBOY! AND I'LL HAVE TO GET AWAY FROM HERE!
DEPARTMENT
NO TIME FOR AN ELABORATE SCHEME-- I'LL SIMPLY TAKE A DEEP BREATH, EXHAUST ALMOST ALL THE OXYGEN IN THE ROOM!
GETTIN' KIND OF (YAWN) STUFFY, ISN'T IT?

ANOTHER SECOND AND THEY'LL BE SOUND ASLEEP!
I CAN'T (YAWN) FALL ASLEEP. WORTH (YAWN) MILLION DOLLARS TO (YAWN) KEEP A-AWAKE...
SNORE
SNORE
LEAVING HIS SLUMBERING CAPTORS BEHIND, CLARK ONCE AGAIN CHANGES TO HIS OTHER IDENTITY AND WITH SUPER-SPEED REACHES THE GETAWAY SCENE!
STORE HOURS
I HAVEN'T TOO MUCH TIME -- JUST ENOUGH TO CATCH THEM -- BUT NOT ENOUGH TO TAKE THEM TO PRISON, SO MAYBE I'D BETTER USE THOSE GIANT ARROWS!
A
IF I SELECT JUST THE RIGHT ARROWS, I CAN MAKE A REALLY SIMPLE JOB OF THIS!
O
P
Q
RRRIPP
YPEWRITE
SHAR
HAVE TO DO THIS FAST -- SO THAT THEY LAND WHERE I'M AIMING THEM ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY!
DEPARTMENT STORE
PARKING
WHAMP
HEY -- A JAIL -- GROWING AROUND US!
JUST A MAKESHIFT -- BUT YOU'LL HAVE THE REAL THING SOON ENOUGH!
WHAMP
WHAMP
SOON, AFTER SUPERBOY RETURNS...
NOW TO WAKE THEM AND -- WH-WHAT? ON MIKE'S FEET -- THE ANSWER TO THE RIDDLE OF WHY THEY'RE KEEPING ME PRISONER -- RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME ALL THE TIME!
8

BEESWAX ON HIS SHOES-- THE VERY SAME THAT I USED TO MAKE THAT DUMMY OF MYSELF IN THE CAVE! THEY WERE UP TO SOMETHING IN THERE AND THOUGHT I SAW THEM, WHILE IT WAS ONLY THE DUMMY!
MUST'VE DOZED OFF FOR A SECOND-- THE KID DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO BEAT IT! WONDER WHAT MADE US SO SLEEPY?
ONE OF THEM MUST HAVE SEEN WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS ME, AND GONE BACK TO GET THE OTHERS. WHEN THEY RETURNED, I'D ALREADY MELTED THE DUMMY... SO THEY SEARCHED TOWN TILL THEY FOUND ME!
I'LL HAVE TO GET BACK TO THAT CAVE FAST! AND THAT WILL MEAN MORE TROUBLE FOR THEM!
THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS! THINGS HAPPEN HERE THAT DON'T HAVE NO RIGHT HAPPENING!
AND THIS THING WILL REALLY BE THE CLINCHER! I'LL SWAY BACK AND FORTH SO SLIGHTLY, THEY BARELY SEE ME--BUT EXERTING SOME OF MY SUPER STRENGTH, IT'LL SHAKE THE WHOLE HOUSE!
HEY--THE HOUSE'S MOVING! MAYBE IT'S A-- AN EARTHQUAKE! LET'S GET OUT!
AND, AS MIKE AND PETE SCRAMBLE TOWARD THE DOOR, A BLUE-CLAD FIGURE SPEEDS THROUGH THE WINDOW...
MY SPEED MAKES ME PRACTICALLY INVISIBLE-- AND I'LL HAVE TO GO EVEN FASTER IF I'M TO DO WHAT I WANT BEFORE THEY OPEN THAT DOOR!
I'LL DIG THIS DEEP-- BUT NOT SO DEEP THAT THEY HURT THEMSELVES WHEN THEY OPEN THE DOOR!
WHAMMP!
HELP! THAT EARTH-QUAKE OPENED UP THE GROUND!
NOT QUITE--BUT IN THAT PIT YOU'LL STAY TILL I GET BACK!

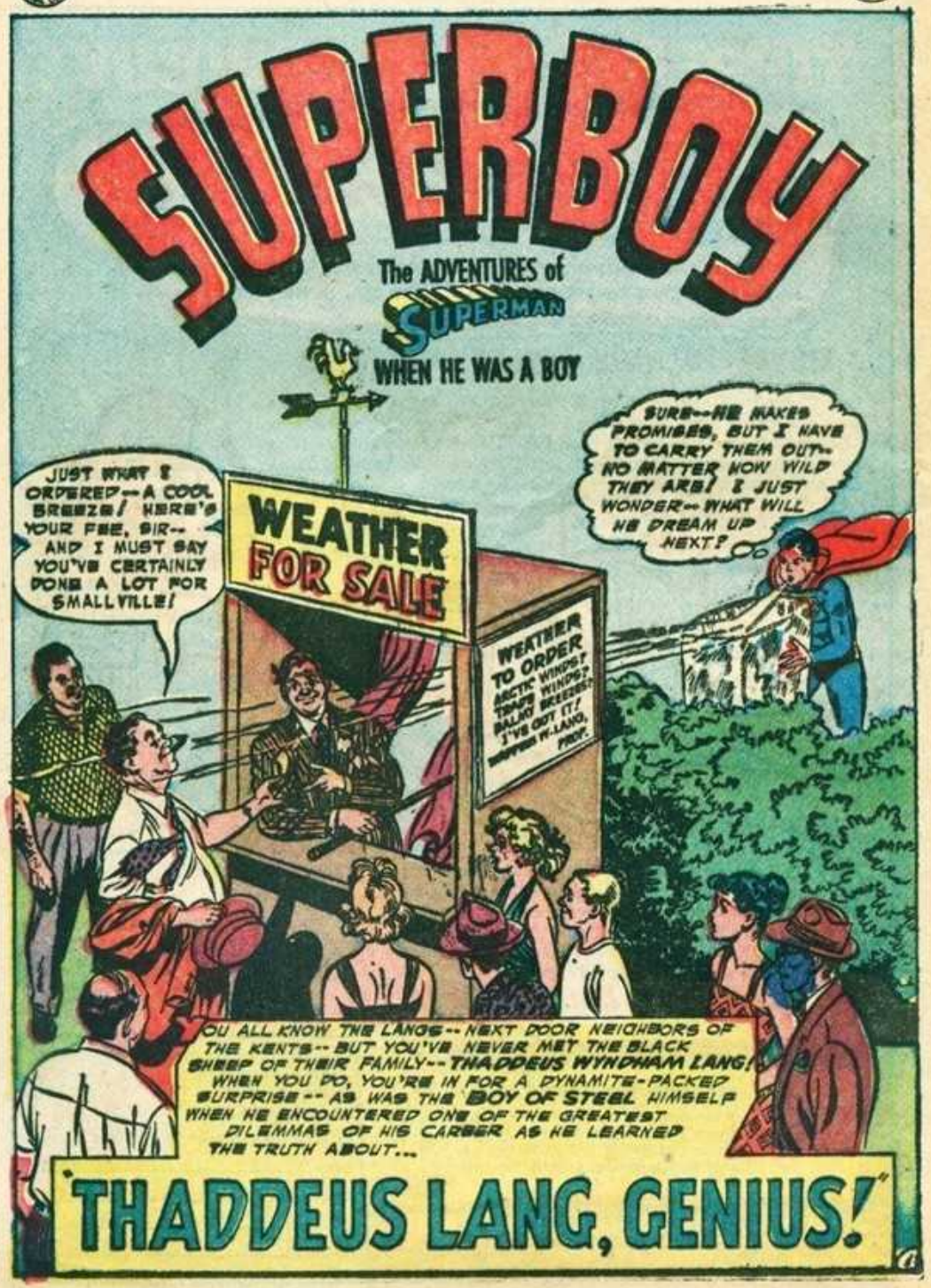
THE CAVES ARE NEAR THE AIRPORT AND GANDY WAS CONSULTING PLANE SCHEDULES WHEN I SAW HIM! IT'S BEGINNING TO ADD UP! SMALLVILLE MUSEUM IS EXPECTING A SHIPMENT TODAY OF A MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF GEMS FOR EXHIBIT! THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE AFTER!
THERE'S A HELICOPTER ALL SET FOR THE GETAWAY! NOW I'D BETTER SEE WHAT'S INSIDE THAT CAVE THAT WAS IN VIEW OF MY DUMMY! IT MUST BE THE CLUE TO THEIR PLANS TO SNATCH THOSE HEAVILY-GUARDED GEMS!
A HUGE ELECTRO-MAGNET! STRONG ENOUGH TO SNATCH THOSE GEMS ENCASED IN A METAL BOX FROM A DISTANCE OF A HALF MILE! THEN A QUICK ESCAPE BEFORE THE GUARDS KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED! NO WONDER THEY WANTED CLARK, ASSUMING HE SAW THE MAGNET!
AND, AS GANDY'S PRIZE IS ALMOST WITHIN HIS GRASP...
HOLD IT! I'LL GET THIS-- WHILE YOU CAN GET A NICE LONG JAIL SENTENCE! LET'S GO BACK AND PICK UP YOUR PALS!
SUPERBOY! AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU! THIS HOUSE -- THAT KID-- WHAT A JINX! TAKE US AWAY!
YEAH--AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO US, JAIL WILL BE COZY!
YES--ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL--EXCEPT THAT THINGS DON'T END TOO WELL FOR CLARK!
CLARK KENT, I'M GIVING YOU A ZERO! ONLY YOU HAD NO SPECIMENS AFTER A MORNING'S SEARCH!
THAT'LL TEACH YOU TO BE AFRAID OF BEES!
ALL I CAN SAY IS BEES-WAX--BECAUSE I DID ADD SOME SPECIMENS TO MY COLLECTION OF CROOKS!
THE END

Shorty
I'LL TELL HIM A THING OR TWO!
PET
HENRY BOLTINOFF
REMEMBER THIS WATCH-DOG YOU SOLD ME LAST WEEK?
WELL, HE'S NO GOOD AS A WATCH-DOG. ANYBODY CAN WALK BY HIM AND ALL HE DOES IS SLEEP!
HE SLEEPS, EH? WELL, THAT'S SIMPLE...
WHAT YOU NEED NOW IS A LITTLE DOG TO WAKE UP THE BIG DOG!
ARF!
ENP

ADVERTISEMENT

The ADVENTURES OF THE DUBBLE BUBBLE KIDS-
HERE IS THE TRICK WHICH HAS AMAZED VISITORS FOR MANY, MANY YEARS-
AND THIS, OF COURSE, IS THE FAMOUS INDIAN ROPE TRICK WHICH IS A MYSTERY TO ALL WHO SEE IT!
AND THIS...
I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME I SHOWED THEM OUR TRICK-
RIGHT!
8-BUT THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE!
YEP! YOU OUGHT TO SELL TICKETS TO SEE US AND OUR DUBBLE BUBBLE GUM!
1¢
DUBBLE BUBBLE GUM
IT IS THE MIRACLE OF THE CENTURY!
FOR REAL FUN CHEW DUBBLE BUBBLE GUM!
-WITH LONG-LASTING FLAVOR!
COMICS, FACTS, AND FORTUNES IN EVERY PIECE!
FRANK H. FLEER CORP., PHILA. 01, PA.

VARSITY VIC
SAY, RICKY, CAN YOU LEND ME TEN DOLLARS?
I'M AFRAID NOT, VIC. I CAN ONLY LET YOU HAVE FIVE DOLLARS!
OKAY, I'LL TAKE IT. WE'RE EVEN!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN EVEN? I JUST LOANED YOU THE FIVE DOLLARS!
I KNOW. BUT YOU OWE ME FIVE DOLLARS AND I OWE YOU FIVE - SO WE'RE EVEN!
END


SUPERBOY
The ADVENTURES of SUPERMAN WHEN HE WAS A BOY
WEATHER FOR SALE
WEATHER TO ORDER
ARCTIC WINDS? TROPIC WINDS? BALMY BREEZES? I'VE GOT IT! WYNDHAM W. LANG, PROP.
JUST WHAT I ORDERED--A COOL BREEZE! HERE'S YOUR FEE, SIR-- AND I MUST SAY YOU'VE CERTAINLY DONE A LOT FOR SMALLVILLE!
SURE--HE MAKES PROMISES, BUT I HAVE TO CARRY THEM OUT-- NO MATTER HOW WILD THEY ARE! I JUST WONDER--WHAT WILL HE DREAM UP NEXT?
OU ALL KNOW THE LANGS--NEXT DOOR NEIGHBORS OF THE KENTS--BUT YOU'VE NEVER MET THE BLACK SHEEP OF THEIR FAMILY--THADDEUS WYNDHAM LANG! WHEN YOU DO, YOU'RE IN FOR A DYNAMITE-PACKED SURPRISE--AS WAS THE BOY OF STEEL HIMSELF WHEN HE ENCOUNTERED ONE OF THE GREATEST DILEMMAS OF HIS CAREER AS HE LEARNED THE TRUTH ABOUT...
"THADDEUS LANG, GENIUS!"

ONE EVENING IN SMALLVILLE AS THE FOSTER PARENTS OF CLARK KENT (REALLY SUPERBOY) DROP IN ON THEIR NEIGHBORS, THE LANGS...
WHY--WHY--WHAT'S THIS? A--A PARTY?
YES, MARTHA--FOR YOU AND JONATHAN! THE WHOLE COMMUNITY IS PROUD OF YOUR WORK, AND I'VE INVITED EVERYONE TO SHOW JUST HOW PROUD WE ARE OF YOU!
CONGRATULATIONS, KEN ON YOUR WONDERFUL WORK FOR THE COMMUNITY CENTER
I--I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU. IT--IT'S ONE OF THE HAPPIEST MOMENTS OF MY LIFE!
I'M GLAD! YOU HAVE MADE OTHERS HAPPY ALL YOUR LIFE, AND IT'S TIME YOU HAD YOUR TURN!
LATER, AS THE PARTY REACHES ITS PEAK...
WHAT--WHAT IS IT? YOU--YOU LOOK UPSET!
WE'LL HAVE TO LEAVE AT ONCE! YOUR SISTER BETTY--TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL--NOTHING SERIOUS--BUT WE'LL HAVE TO TEND TO HER CHILDREN! TELL LANA TO PACK AND WE'LL DRIVE RIGHT OFF!
TELEGRAM
SO SORRY--WHAT A SHAME--AFTER SUCH A WONDERFUL PARTY!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING! JUST PACK AND GO. I'LL COME IN TOMORROW MORNING AND CLEAN UP!
NEXT MORNING...
I'M SO GRATEFUL TO HER FOR THAT WONDERFUL PARTY, I DON'T MIND CLEANING HER PLACE--
YOU'LL JUST SIT DOWN AND TAKE A REST WHILE I GIVE IT A SUPER-CLEANING! I'M GRATEFUL, TOO, MOM--IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT ANYONE MAKES YOU AS HAPPY AS YOU DESERVE TO BE!
MOMENTS LATER, AT THE LANG HOUSE...
WHY BOTHER WITH A VACUUM CLEANER--WHEN I CAN BLOW ALL THE DIRT RIGHT INTO THE SKY?
WHOOOSH!
2

IT'S SIMPLE. CLEANING THE FLOOR AND CEILING AT THE SAME TIME WHEN YOU CAN STAY BETWEEN THEM! NEXT, I'LL--
RRRRING!
OH, THERE GOES THE DOOR BELL! BETTER CHANGE BACK TO CLARK AT ONCE!
SECONDS AFTERWARD, AS CLARK KENT OPENS THE DOOR...
PARDON ME, YOUNG MAN-- BUT DON'T THE LANGS RESIDE HERE? I'M-- UH-THADDEUS WYNDHAM LANG-- MR. LANG'S HALF-BROTHER I WROTE AND UH-INFORMED THEM I MIGHT DROP IN. I'M A FEW DAYS EARLY, BUT...
GOSH-- I'M SORRY THEY LEFT LAST NIGHT-- MY MOM WILL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT! WE LIVE NEXT DOOR!

SOON, AFTER MA KENT EXPLAINS THE CIRCUMSTANCES...
WHY DON'T YOU STAY WITH US TILL THEY RETURN? WE'D BE DELIGHTED TO HAVE ANY RELATIVE OF THE LANGS! THEY-- THEY'RE OUR BEST FRIENDS!
DELIGHTED, MADAME! IF IT WILL NOT BE TOO MUCH BOTHER-- WHY, IT WILL BE A PLEASURE INDEED!
AND, AT THAT MOMENT, IN A NEARBY TOWN, UNAWARE THAT THADDEUS HAS ALREADY VISITED THEM...
OH-- I-- I JUST REMEMBERED! YOUR-- ER-- HALF-BROTHER THADDEUS SAID HE MIGHT VISIT US, JUST IN CASE WE'RE NOT BACK WHEN HE COMES, DON'T YOU THINK WE OUGHT TO WARN THE KENTS?
YOU BET! I'D BETTER TELL THEM PLAINLY-- TO STAY AWAY FROM HIM, AS IF HE WAS THE PLAGUE! I'LL WRITE AT ONCE-- SPECIAL DELIVERY-- AND TELL THEM THE WHOLE STORY!

MEANWHILE, AT THE KENTS... AS UNCLE THADDEUS UNPACKS...
HMM... SO CARELESS OF ME TO HAVE KEPT THAT. I'LL DISPOSE OF IT AT ONCE!
THE LUZERNE CHRONICLE
SHERIFF GIVES THADDEUS WYNDHAM LANG 24 HOURS TO LEAVE TOWN
AND, WITH THIS PORTABLE PRINTING PRESS, I'LL GIVE MYSELF A-- UH-- MORE FAVORABLE BRAND OF PUBLICITY!
3

PRESENTLY...
AAH--THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! NOW THEY'LL WELCOME ME WITH OPEN ARMS!
LANG'S INGENIOUS DISCOVERIES TRANSFORM LIFE IN LUZERNE
TOWN EXPRESSES GRATITUDE FOR LANG'S BRILLIANT IDEAS
AND, THAT NIGHT, AS THADDEUS MEETS SMALLVILLE'S LEADING CITIZENS...
GO AHEAD--SHOW THEM THOSE CLIPPINGS! IF THE LANGS WON'T BOAST ABOUT A CELEBRITY IN THEIR FAMILY, WE'LL DO IT FOR THEM!
PLEASE--YOU DO ME TOO MUCH HONOR, MR. KENT! I'M NO CELEBRITY--JUST A MODEST MAN--WITH A KNACK FOR SEEING THINGS THAT OTHER PEOPLE CAN'T!
I HAVE AN IRRIGATION PROBLEM ON MY FARM, MR. LANG--
--AND MY BUSINESS NEEDS A SHOT IN THE ARM. IF YOU COULD--
I'LL VISIT YOU BOTH TOMORROW AND GIVE YOU THE BENEFIT OF MY OBSERVATIONS.
NEXT DAY...
MY WHOLE IRRIGATION SYSTEM WAS BASED ON PIPES RUN FROM THIS LAKE--AND NOW IT'S DRIED UP. I'LL GIVE A THOUSAND DOLLARS--
AAAH--A THOUSAND DOLLARS. MOST GENEROUS. THANK YOU, SIR!
I LOVE HELPING PEOPLE! OF COURSE THERE'LL BE A LITTLE FEE INVOLVED. I SIMPLY HAVE TO CHARGE FOR MY SERVICES, YOU KNOW--OR I'D BE MOBBED WITH REQUESTS!
I'D BETTER WATCH HIM AS SUPERBOY--AND POSSIBLY LEND A HAND IF HE NEEDS IT! THE LANGS HAVE BEEN SO NICE TO MOM AND DAD!
BUT MY IRRIGATION PROBLEM... HOW--HOW CAN I SOLVE IT?
VERY SIMPLE. WE'LL HAVE TO FILL THE LAKE WITH RAIN WATER. SHOULDN'T BE DIFFICULT!
YOU'LL NEVER GET ENOUGH RAIN WATER TO FILL THAT POND! YOU MUST BE OUT OF YOUR MIND TO LET HIM WALK OFF WITH YOUR MONEY--AND A CRAZY PROMISE!
BUT THOSE NEWSPAPER ARTICLES HE SHOWED US--THEY SAID HE COULD DO ANYTHING! GULP! HOPE!
I HOPE SO, TOO--OTHERWISE IT WOULD BE JUST PLAIN THEFT!

PUZZLED, THE BOY OF STEEL FOLLOWS THADDEUS TO HIS NEXT APPOINTMENT...

I DON'T HAVE MUCH, MR. LANG-- BUT I'LL GIVE YOU EVERY CENT-- $500-- IF YOU CAN TELL ME HOW TO GET THE TOURIST TRADE AGAIN! EVER SINCE THAT NEW ROAD WAS BUILT, NO ONE PASSES HERE!

HI POWER GAS

$500-- I GUESS THAT WILL DO!

JUST CHANGE THAT FOUNTAIN SO INSTEAD OF SPRAYING WATER, IT SPRAYS STRAWBERRY SODA-- AND OFFER IT FREE TO THE CHILDREN OF PEOPLE WHO STOP HERE. PUT A BIG SIGN ON THE MAIN ROAD TO ATTRACT TOURISTS!

IT-- IT-- SURE WOULD!

BUT HOW-- HOW CAN I CHANGE A WATER FOUNTAIN TO A STRAWBERRY SODA FOUNTAIN?

HOW INDEED? I-- I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND!

GAS AND MEALS

YOU WILL, SUPERBOY-- AND YOU WON'T LIKE IT WHEN YOU DO!

AFTERWARD, AS A PUZZLED CLARK KENT RETURNS HOME...

THIS SPECIAL DELIVERY FROM THE LANGS THAT JUST CAME WARNS US THAT IF THADDEUS COMES NOT TO-- ER-- BELIEVE ANYTHING HE SAYS. HE-- ER-- HAS ALL SORTS OF-- ER-- ECCENTRIC IDEAS AND TAKES MONEY FOR THEM WITHOUT-- ER-- EVER DOING ANYTHING ABOUT THEM!

ECCENTRIC? HUMPH! SOUNDS LIKE A FANCY WAY OF SAYING HE'S A SWINDLER!

GOSH-- THAT CONFIRMS WHAT I SAW AS SUPERBOY!

YOU MEAN HE'S ALREADY STARTED? WELL, YOU'LL HAVE TO SEE THAT HE RETURNS EVERY CENT-- AND WE'LL HAVE TO WARN THE REST OF SMALLVILLE AGAINST HIM. WE'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR INTRODUCING HIM TO EVERYONE.

OH NO! THAT WOULD BE DREADFUL! THE LANGS WOULD BE DISGRACED-- AND AFTER WHAT THEY'VE DONE FOR US, I COULDN'T DO THAT TO THEM! CLARK-- YOU MUST FIND ANOTHER SOLUTION-- AS SUPERBOY!

HMM... THE ONLY THING I CAN DO IS MAKE THOSE CRAZY PROMISES OF HIS COME TRUE--

AND WORK IS PILING UP FOR SUPERBOY AS THADDEUS SPEAKS TO SMALLVILLE'S TOWN COUNCIL...
YES, GENTLEMEN-- I KNOW EXACTLY HOW TO CONVERT THIS UGLY JUNK HEAP--SO THAT EVERY SCRAP OF IRON AND STEEL WILL BE WORTH MORE THAN ITS WEIGHT IN GOLD.
YOU DO? THAT WOULD BE WONDERFUL! IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO FOR YOU IN RETURN?
WHY, YES. JUST LET ME HAVE THAT STRETCH OF LAND.
THAT SWAMPLAND? IT'S WORTHLESS-- BUT IF THAT'S ALL YOU WANT, WE'LL WRITE YOU THE DEED AT ONCE!
AND WHAT WILL THADDEUS DO WITH THAT SWAMP? WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT TO FIND OUT-- FOR, MEANWHILE, SUPERBOY IS UNWITTINGLY HELPING HIS PLANS!
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN...
HMM... THADDEUS' IDEA ISN'T AS FAR FETCHED AS IT SEEMS. THE RAINWATER FOR MILES AND MILES AROUND DRAINS DOWN THAT LOW POINT OF THE PLATEAU INTO THE VALLEY, AND AWAY FROM HERE...
...AND ALL I HAVE TO DO IS BECOME A HUMAN BULLDOZER AND PLOW A CHANNEL THAT WILL CONNECT THE TWO POINTS. WHEN I'M FINISHED I'LL BLOW A LITTLE RAINSTORM THIS WAY AND SEE THE RESULTS!
MOMENTS AFTERWARD...
HMM... A REAL GOOD RAIN WOULD FILL UP THE LAKE! I'VE SAVED THE LANGS' REPUTATION, AND THIS FARM. TOO BAD THADDEUS DIDN'T SEE THAT HIS IDEA HAD REAL POSSIBILITIES! NOW TO SEE IF I CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT OTHER BRAINSTORM OF HIS!
SOON, IN A DISTANT FIELD...
THESE WILD STRAWBERRIES BELONG TO NO ONE, SO I CAN HAVE ALL I WANT. I WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE AT FIRST, BUT THERE IS A WAY TO MAKE THAT AN ALMOST PERPETUAL STRAWBERRY-FLAVORED FOUNTAIN! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS COLLECT ENOUGH STRAWBERRIES...
WHAMMMM
...AND THAT'S EASY IF YOU DON'T HAVE TO PICK THEM! THE VIBRATIONS CAUSED BY THIS IMPACT WILL CAUSE THEM TO FALL TO THE GROUND... AND THEN I CAN GATHER THEM EASILY!

PRESENTLY...
NOW, HAVING WASHED THEM, I'LL SQUASH THEM TOGETHER AND CONVERT THEM TO JUICE! DIVING INTO THIS HUGE, STRONG PLASTIC CONTAINER I MADE SHOULD DO THE TRICK!
SHORTLY AFTERWARD, THE BOY OF STEEL BORES BENEATH THE LAND TO THE SOURCE OF THE FOUNTAIN, WHERE...
HMM... THE FOUNTAIN SPURTS UPWARD BETWEEN THOSE TWO ROCKS. IF I SIMPLY FIT THAT CONTAINER OF STRAWBERRY SYRUP OVER THE ROCKS, REAL TIGHT, AND ADD SOME CARBON DIOXIDE TO MAKE THE WATER FIZZ, THIS HAREBRAINED SCHEME WILL ACTUALLY WORK!
ESPECIALLY AFTER I MAKE A HOLE ON TOP FOR THE STRAWBERRY-FLAVORED, CARBONATED FOUNTAIN TO GUSH FROM! AND WITH THIS HUGE SUPPLY, IT SHOULD LAST FOR YEARS!
SOON...
JUMPIN' JENNIFER! THAT THADDEUS LANG'S A GENIUS! BEST $500 WORTH I EVER GOT!
WELL -- THAT TAKES CARE OF THAT!
LATER, IN SMALLVILLE...
HERE YOU ARE, STOCKS GUARANTEED TO GO UP A THOUSAND PER CENT WHEN I PUT MY PLAN INTO EFFECT!
BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO BUILD HOUSES ON THAT SWAMP! THERE ISN'T ENOUGH LAND IN THE COUNTY TO FILL IT WITH!
INVEST in THADDEUS WYNDHAM LANG HOUSING PROJEC
I'D SAY IT WAS CRAZY, TOO -- BUT AFTER THE WAY HE MADE THAT STRAWBERRY FOUNTAIN, I'M BUYING 1000 SHARES!
AND THE WAY HE SOLVED JONES' IRRIGATION PROBLEM -- I'M BUYING, TOO! A MAN WHO CAN DO THOSE THINGS CAN DO ANYTHING!
COME ON, EVERYONE -- WE'LL MAKE A MILLION DOLLARS BUYIN' ANYTHING HE THINKS UP!
GOOD GRIEF! IT DIDN'T OCCUR TO ME THAT I'D BUILD UP HIS REPUTATION!

I DID THE THINGS HE PROMISED TO DO, BUT I CAN'T STOP THEM FROM BUYING THAT STOCK WITHOUT EXPOSING HIM! WHAT A PREDICAMENT!
ONLY THING I CAN DO IS MAKE GOOD ON HIS PROMISE AGAIN, AND THEN SEE THAT HE LEAVES TOWN WITHOUT MAKING ANY MORE!
HMPH-- BUILD HOUSES ON THIS BOTTOMLESS SWAMP.. THERE MUST BE A WAY TO DO IT! HAVE TO THINK HARD!
COME TO THINK OF IT, HE MAY HAVE DONE SMALLVILLE A FAVOR AFTER ALL! THERE IS A WAY TO DO IT-- BUT I'LL HAVE TO WORK REAL HARD!
FAR AWAY, THE BOY OF STEEL PLUMMETS DEEP INTO THE EARTH...
MY X-RAY VISION SPOTTED IRON HERE -- AND I'LL NEED EVERY OUNCE OF IT! AFTER BRINGING IT TO THE SURFACE, I'LL HAVE TO PURIFY AND SMELT IT MYSELF!
WHUMMP
SOON, AFTER DROPPING THE IRON INTO A HUGE VAT...
NOBODY COULD SURVIVE IN THIS HOT MOLTEN ORE-- BUT ME. IT'S THE QUICKEST WAY TO MELT IT DOWN. OH WELL, MIGHT AS WELL PRACTICE MY CRAWL STROKE WHILE I'M AT IT!
SOON, AFTER HE HAS SHAPED IRON GIRDERS OUT OF THE METAL HE MELTED...
THIS STEEL SHEET PLUS THE GIRDERS I MADE SHOULD DO THE TRICK.

I'LL DRIVE THE GIRDERS INTO SOLID GROUND ON ALL FOUR SIDES OF THE SWAMP...
WHAM
...AND NOW, WITH THE STEEL SHEET ON TOP, I CAN RIVET THEM TOGETHER AND MAKE A STURDY PLATFORM THAT WILL SUPPORT HUNDREDS OF HOUSES!
WITH ENOUGH EARTH TO COVER THE STEEL, THIS CAN BE A GARDEN SPOT FOR NEW HOMES. SMALLVILLE WILL HAVE SOME MUCH NEEDED ROOM FOR EXPANSION! NOW TO SEE THADDEUS AND SEE THAT HE GETS OUT OF TOWN FAST!
BUT AS HE APPROACHES THADDEUS' OFFICE...
WHAT'S THIS? MY X-RAY VISION SHOWS HIS PLANS FOR ALL THE PROMISES HE MADE--AND EACH ONE HAS A PRACTICAL METHOD--JUST AS I WORKED THEM OUT! YET, HE'S THROWN THEM AWAY AND IS WORKING ON A NEW PROJECT! I THINK I UNDERSTAND HIM!
HE REALLY CAN FIGURE OUT THE ANSWERS--BUT HE LEAPS TO NEW IDEAS SO FAST, HE FORGETS THE OLD ONES! HE ISN'T DISHONEST--HE'S JUST IRRESPONSIBLE! I THINK I KNOW HOW TO HELP!
SUPERBOY! THANKS FOR WORKING OUT MY PLANS--BUT I'D HAVE GOTTEN 'ROUND TO 'EM--ER--SOME TIME.
MAYBE, BUT I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR WILD SCHEMES THAT YOU DIDN'T FOLLOW THROUGH! BY TOMORROW, I WANT YOU OUT OF SMALLVILLE!
S-S-SUPERBOY! I--I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG--IT'S JUST THAT I GET TOO MANY IDEAS--AND GET EXCITED OVER THE NEW ONES! BUT I'LL LEAVE IF YOU WANT ME TO!

LATER THAT DAY...
WE WANT THADDEUS-- IN SMALLVILLE!
SMALLVILLE NEEDS YOU, THADDEUS! DON'T GO!
LOOK, SUPERBOY! THEY WANT ME! WOULDN'T YOU PLEASE-- IF I COMPLETED ALL MY IDEAS -- LET ME STAY? I--I THINK I KNOW NOW WHY I NEVER WORKED THEM OUT BEFORE!
EVERYONE USED TO GET SO IMPATIENT WITH ME WHEN I CHANGED TO NEW IDEAS -- BUT NOW I FEEL LIKE DOING EVERYTHING I CAN FOR THEM-- BECAUSE THEY'RE DOING THIS FOR ME!
IF YOU'VE REALLY CHANGED--THERE IS A WAY TO PROVE IT! HOW DID YOU PLAN TO TO MAKE OUR JUNK MORE VALUABLE THAN GOLD?
THAT WAS THE EASIEST IDEA! I WAS GOING TO USE THE SCRAP METAL TO TRANSFORM THE JUNK INTO EQUIPMENT FOR A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND! ANYONE KNOWS THAT A CHILD'S HAPPINESS IS WORTH MORE THAN GOLD!
YOU'RE RIGHT-- AND I'D BE GLAD TO HELP YOU ON THE PROJECT!
SO--AS THE NEXT FEW DAYS PASS...
FINE! THAT BUMPER PLUS THE OTHER SHOULD MAKE FINE PARALLEL BARS, AND WE CAN USE THE REST OF THAT OLD AUTO FOR THE RUNGS!
AND, WHEN THE LANDS COME HOME...
IT--IT'S UNCLE THADDEUS! HE-- HE MUST HAVE SWINDLED-- I--I MEAN ER--GOTTEN THOUSANDS FROM OUR FRIENDS IN SMALLVILLE! WHAT-- WHAT CAN WE DO?
ONLY ONE THING. WE'LL GO RIGHT TO THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND TELL HIM EVERYTHING, AND TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY!
LATER, AT THE MAYOR'S OFFICE...
YOU HAVE A PROBLEM, EH? WELL-- DON'T TELL ME! TELL MY SPECIAL ADVISER! I'LL CALL HIM IN RIGHT NOW!
Y-YOU-- THE MAYOR'S ADVISER?
YES--AND WE'VE ALL LEARNED TO RESPECT HIM HIGHLY IN THE SHORT TIME HE'S BEEN HERE!
IT SURE PAID OFF-- ORGANIZING THAT PARADE URGING THADDEUS TO STAY HERE-- AFTER I ORDERED HIM OUT OF TOWN!
THE END!